

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: ST. PAUL CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA-SLOVAKIA

REF: (A) STATE 276315 AND (B) PRAGUE 2630 (NOTAL)

1. ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA TOUR OF SLOVAKIA CONSISTED OF FIVE CONCERTS IN FIVE CITIES DURING A SIX-DAY PERIOD, OCT. 18-23. FIRST CONCERT IN BRATISLAVA, OCT. 18 AS PART OF BRATISLAVA MUSIC FESTIVAL (BHS) WAS IN COMPLETELY FULL (1,000) CONCERT HALL OF THE SLOVAK PHILHARMONIC. APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE (REFTEL B) MADE UP OF SOPHISTICATED FESTIVAL ATTENDEES WHO ESPECIALLY ENJOYED CONTEMPORARY PIECE BY LOUIS BALLANTRD. BALLANTRD WAS PRESENT AND REPEATED APPLAUSE BROUGHT HIM TO STAGE FOR SEVERAL BOWS.

2. OCT. 19 CONCERT IN NITRA TO FULL HOUSE OF 600, ABOUT 200 STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

3. OCT. 21 CONCERT IN TRNAVA WAS IN AUDITORIUM OF TEACHERS COLLEGE; NEARLY FULL-HOUSE AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 500 INCLUDED 400 STUDENTS (AGES 15-21). CONCERT WAS OPENING NIGHT OF FOURTH ANNUAL "FALL MUSIC FESTIVAL" (FOR YOUTH) AND WAS INTRODUCED BY HEAD OF MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. ORCHESTRA WAS EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE AND REMAINED ONE HOUR AFTER CONCERT TO SIGN AUTOGRAPHS AND ANSWER TEN QUESTIONS PREPARED
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BY SIXTH GRADE MUSIC CLASS.

4. OCT. 22 CONCERT IN ZILINA WAS IN HALL OF TRADE UNIONS (DOM ODBOROV) BEFORE 90 PERCENT FULL HOUSE OF 450 INCLUDING 300 YOUNG PEOPLE (AGES 16-25). CONCERT WAS ONLY NON-SOCIALIST PRESENTATION IN THIRD INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL OF ZILINA (OCT. 8-31) RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH BHS.

5. OCT. 23 FINAL CONCERT IN KOSICE IN HALL OF ARTS (DOM UMENIA-CONCERT HALL FOR STATE PHILHARMONIC OF KOSICE) BEFORE MIXED AUDIENCE OF ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE--TOTAL 535 (OT PERCENT FULL). EXTREMELY CORDIAL WELCOME FROM DIRECTOR OF STATE PHILHARMONIC WHO INSISTED ESCORT GROUP OF THREE SIT IN HER BOX. DURING INTERMISSION, SHE INVITED CONDUCTOR DAVIES AND CONCERTMASTER/SOLOIST TECCO TO HER OFFICE WHERE TECCO RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE FROM LOCAL CONCERTMASTER FOR HIS BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE OF MARTINU'S CONCERTO DE CAMERA.

6. EVALUATION: ORCHESTRA'S PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT EXHAUSTING TOUR WAS EXCELLENT. SECRETARY GENERAL BHS'S COMMENT DURING INTERMISSION BRATISLAVA CONCERT APPLIED TO ALL FIVE: "I AM VERY HAPPY BECUASE WE HAVE (A) A FULL HALL, (B) EXCELLENT MUSIC, AND (C) AN EXTREMELY PLEASED AUDIENCE--I COULD NOT ASK FOR MORE." AS A GROUP, ORCHESTRA WAS A VERY GOOD BUNCH OF "TROOPERS" WHO SURVIVED A FOURTH CLASS HOTEL IN RUZEMBEROK (NEAR ZILINA) WITH MINIMAL COMPLAINT. IN THE FUTURE, POST WOULD ELIMINATE THE ZILINA STOP FOR ANY GROUP LARGER THAN A QUARTETE BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE HOTEL FACILITIES IN THE AREA.
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